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MEMOIRS
OF THE
ANCESTORS
Of Her ROYAL HIGHNESS
AUGUSTA,
PRINCESS of WALES,
AND OF
Saxe-Gotha.

PARTICULARLY
FREDERICK *the Wise,*
JOHN *the Good and the Constant,*
AND
JOHN FREDERICK *the Magnanimous,*
PROTECTORS of the Great LUTHER.

IN A LETTER to a FRIEND.

By the AUTHORS of the ABSTRACT, with IMPROVEMENTS, of the HISTORY of POPERY; and of the SUPPLEMENT; to which the Reader is referr'd for a full and true Account, both of POPERY and of the REFORMATION.

L O N D O N,

Printed for JOHN OSWALD, at the *Rose and Crown* in the *Poultry*, near *Stocks Market*. M.DCC.XXXVI.
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MEMOIRS

OF THE

ANCIENTS

OF THE ROYAL HOUSE

AUGUST

PRINCESS OF WALES

AND OF

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCE OF WALES

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE PRINCE OF WALES

BY THE REV. J. H. ...

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LONDON

Printed for John ...
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SHORT
MEMOIRS
OF

The ANCESTORS *of Her Royal*
Highness the PRINCESS
of WALES.

SIR,

IN compliance with your Desire, the other day, we here send you some short Memoirs of *those three illustrious Electors* of SAXONY, FREDERICK, surnamed *the Wise*; JOHN, *the Good* and *the Constant*; and JOHN FREDERICK, *the Magnanimous*; the Protectors of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER; and the first and chief of the *Protestant Princes of Germany*: from the two last of whom, Her Royal Highness AUGUSTA, Princess of *Wales*, is descended. The Arguments with which you press'd

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your Request, *viz.* That you had heard us often speak, with the profoundest Respect, of those Heroes; and with the highest Pleasure and Joy, that a Princess, sprung from such a noble Stock, should be matched with our Royal Family: That the Memory of what those glorious Princes *did*, or *suffered*, for their Attachment and Zeal for the Protestant Religion, might be *revived*, and more universally known among us; to increase the publick Joy among all staunch Protestants, for the late Marriage of their Royal Highnesses: And, that you might have something to stop the Mouths of our inveterate *Tories*, and those impos'd upon by the Emissaries of the *Papists*; who make it their Business, to disparage the House of *Saxe-Gotha*, and prattle every where, as if a Daughter of that Family, were not a sufficient Match for a Prince of *Wales*; have prevailed with us to give you what little Satisfaction we can, upon all these Heads: and we assure you, we shall be very sorry, if some more masterly Hand, do not give further Satisfaction upon all of them, to the whole Nation.

You may remember, you did not intreat us to trace the Original of that *most Antient* House, or to continue our *Memoirs* from the Death of the most illustri-
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ous JOHN FREDERICK, to our times; but to confine ourselves to the *three* mentioned, who, one after another, were, in their day, the principal Supports of the Protestant Religion, in the Empire; and to that part of their Lives, in which they acted as *Reformers*, or *Defenders* of the *Reformation*. We shall therefore very briefly introduce ourselves to the Story.

The House of SAXONY, is, by all Antiquaries, allowed to be one of the most *Ancient* and *Honourable*, in the whole World. Not to look back to the first Ages after the Flood, to enquire into the Original of the old Inhabitants of that large Country, now called *Germany*; their Manners, Government, Acquisitions, &c. it shall suffice to observe, That the *Saxons* number no less than four and twenty Kings, or rather Princes, in a direct Line from HARDERICH, who reign'd before the Birth of *Christ*, to WITEKIND, called *the Great*, who was conquer'd by CHARLEMAGN, *An. Dom.* 785. and became the first Duke of the *Saxons*. The fourteenth of these was the famous HENGIST, who, upon an Invitation from the Antient *Britons*, then harass'd by the *Picts* and *Scots*, sail'd over into this Kingdom, about the Year 448. and became King of *Kent*; being succeeded at home, by his eldest

Son HARTWAKER. We need not put our Countrymen in mind, That the antient *Angles* and *Saxons*, whose Posterity have been since called *English*, came all from this Country; and therefore that the *Saxons* in *Germany* and *We* are Brethren. Nor need we tarry to tell them, that the antient *Saxon* Kings, were, generally, less bent upon *encroaching on the Liberties of their Subjects*, than most of those we have had since the days of WILLIAM, the *Bastard of Normandy*, commonly, tho' perhaps not justly, known by the Name of WILLIAM the Conqueror: And that therefore, the Consideration of having Kings, Queens, and Princesses, once more from that Country, should not be disagreeable to any true-hearted ENGLISHMAN.

From WITEKIND the Great, sprang the four famous and fruitful Branches, of SAXONY, RINGLEHEIM, WETTIN, and LIPPE; the two former by his first Wife, and the two latter by his second: And from them have descended most of the great and noble Families of *Europe*; such as the *Saxon* Emperors, the Kings of *France*, of the Race of HUGH CAPET, the Kings of *Denmark*, Dukes of *Savoy*, *Holstein*, and, besides numberless others, all the present Princes of the House of *Saxony*. But
not

not to trouble you with endless Genealogies, FREDERICK *Bellicosus*, the *Brave* or *Warlike*, *Markgrave* of *Misnia*, and *Landgrave* of *Thuringia*, &c. upon the Death of ALBERT III. the last Elector of *Saxony*, of the ASCANIÁN Branch, without Issue, was created Elector, and invested in the Dignity, by the Emperor SIGISMUND, Jan. 6. 1423. and so the Title of Duke of *Saxony* was restored to the House of WITEKIND the *Great*, after it had been alienated into other Familys, for almost two Centurys and an half. His Son, FREDERICK the Second, surnamed *Placitus*, or the *Debonair*, succeeded his Father in the *Electorate* and in *Misnia*, An. 1428. and died September 7th, 1464. aged 53. having reigned 36 Years. He left behind him two Sons, ERNEST and ALBERT. ERNEST succeeded his Father as Elector, maintain'd Friendship with his Brother, bought the Dutchy of *Sagan* in *Silesia*, was presented with a *Rose of Gold* by Pope SIXTUS IV. and died 26 August 1486. after a Reign of 22 Years. He had two Sons, FREDERICK III. surnamed the *Wise*, who after a Reign of 39 Years, died a Bachelor, An. 1525. and JOHN the *Good* and *Constant*, who succeeded his Brother in the Electoral Dignity, reigned 7 Years, and died

died *An.* 1532. aged 65. His Son was JOHN FREDERICK the *Magnanimous*, who, after a glorious Life, died, *An.* 1554. aged about 51. These last are the three Princes whose Memoirs we send you. ALBERT, the second Son of FREDERICK the *Debonair*, had two Sons; GEORGE, a mortal Enemy of the *Lutherans*, as any was in those days, who died without Issue, *An.* 1539. and HENRY, whom some call the *Pious*; who was a staunch Protestant, and of the League of *Smalcald*, and would not change his Religion for all his Brother's Estate and Riches. He died in *August* 1442. and was succeeded by his eldest Son MAURICE, of whom you must hear a great deal before we have done. So that JOHN FREDERICK the *Magnanimous*, and this MAURICE, were second Cousins.

The melancholic Estate of the *Western* Church, for many Ages before the *Reformation*, is known to all. *The Mystery of Iniquity*, which began to work in the Apostles days, by degrees produced *that great and universal Corruption* of Christianity, which we call *POPERY*. *Darkness*, *Superstition*, and *Idolatry*, had for many Ages overspread the Church; little remained of our Religion but the *Name*. They had perverted the *Doctrines* of Christ,

Christ; Paganized the *Worship* of God; almost destroyed the *Faith* and *Hope* of Believers; and erected a *hellish Tyranny*, to crush all, who durst but mutter against them. The Pope had undertaken to *change Times and Seasons*, and not only to forbid or command what God had left *indifferent*; but expressly to *require* what he had *solemnly forbidden*, and *authoritatively* to *prohibit* what Christ had in so many Words *commanded*; which is literally, to *exalt himself above all that is called God*. In a word, *the whole World worshipped the Beast!* Kings and Emperors must bow before *him!* All things seemed desperate: *But nothing is impossible with God.* (non)

It was about the Beginning of the sixteenth Century, and in a good hour, that *Frederick* Elector of *Saxony*, surnamed the *Wise*, founded the University of *Wittenberg*, the capital City of the Electorate, in which, *Martin Luther*, an *Augustine* Monk of *Erford*, and then six and twenty Years of Age, was promoted by one *Staupicius*, to whom the Elector had recommended it, to provide him with Men of Genius, Learning, and Character, to be his first Professors.

When he came to this University, he proved an excellent Preacher, and diligent, successful Teacher in the Schools, for both
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which, he was well qualified. He had a quick Fancy, sound Judgment, great natural Parts, a good Stock of useful Knowledge, strong Memory, a free and ready Elocution, and a commanding Address. His Discourses were studied, and the Substance of them solid, but his Diction so plain and easy, and his Method so *apt to instruct and please*, that he became very much followed. And tho' he did not allow himself in *mean, silly Stuff*, or a *loose, rambling* way of Talking; yet, we are apt to think, that he had learn'd to preach *populariter, pueriliter, & simplicissime* (to use his well-known Words on a certain Occasion) and to such a Degree, as in that dark time, successfully to teach the weak, and the ignorant, and the poor, &c. the *great Truths* of Religion, to their Edification, Comfort, and eternal Salvation. The wise Elector heard him often with great Satisfaction. He admir'd his Manner and Method; his Seriousness and Boldness; his lively Flights, (with which he abounded) and solid Arguments; his Illustrations, which were plain and natural; and his Exhortations, which were fervent and vehement; and, in all of them, the *Depth* and *Excellency* of the Matter, which was also not a little *new* to him. And to shew his *Respect*, among other Things, he had him made
Doctor

Doctor in Divinity, and would himself be at the Charge of it. Thus was *Luther* most honourably dignified by so illustrious a Patron; and one, who was one of the best Judges of Men and Things, then in the Empire! And to shew his Gratitude, he laid himself out most indefatigably to grow in Learning, being a very hard Student, and having a Constitution that could bear Labour and Watching, whereby he became still the more useful, and the more beloved.

In these Circumstances was *Luther*, An. 1517. when *Tetzel*, a *Dominican Friar*, brought the Pope's odious *Indulgences* to *Germany*, to be sold for Money. The Extravagance of this Man, and his Fellows, promising the full *Pardon of all Sins*; and averring, that even, tho' a Man had deflower'd the *Blessed Virgin*, they would forgive him, if he would pay for it: Their Lewdness in squandering away the Money they got, in Taverns and Bawdy-Houses: And the amazing *Superstition* of Multitudes in thinking to purchase *Remission of Sin* and *eternal Life*, for Money, and from such scandalous Hands too; raised *Luther's* Zeal and Indignation, to that degree, that he began without Reserve, to thunder against both Sellers and Buyers, and all that wicked Traffick; and boldly

boldly published some Theses against them. These were soon dispersed, and read with Attention by all sorts. And so *universal* was the *Corruption* of the Church, and so *notorious* the *Tyranny* and *monstrous Wickedness* of the Clergy, that almost all *Lovers of Learning* were pleased, and encouraged him. But the Pope and the Priests perceiving the Danger, opposed him all manner of Ways. They wrote against him, complain'd of him, grievously accused him, and cast numberless Slanders upon him. *Luther*, who was not easily frightened, replied to all their Writings; and bravely vindicated himself and his Doctrine: And being obliged to look more closely into those Controversies, he went farther and farther, till at last he proved a happy Instrument in the Hand of God, to begin, and carry on the *Reformation* from *POPERY*. But because we are not writing *Luther's* Life, but *Memoirs* of the House of *Saxony*, we shall take no farther notice of him, than as the *Reformation* and the *glorious Hand* this illustrious House had in it, are concerned.

These Things making a great noise, could not escape *Frederick* the Wise. However, he heard as if he heard not, but suffered him to take his own course; secretly, and of his own accord too, resolving,

ing, not to see him run down without Cause. The Encouragement *Luther* met with from the University and Ministers, many of whom soon declared for him, and the Regard which he knew was paid to his Writings, in other Places, confirm'd him in this Purpose. Mean while, it was observed that he favoured *Luther*, and *Maximilian* the Emperor gave the Pope a hint of it, in a Letter, *An.* 1518. His Holiness, not to lose time, cited *Luther* to appear at *Rome*; wrote to Cardinal *Cajetan*, then his Legate in *Germany*, to get him brought to *Ausburg* to the Diet, to keep him in safe Custody, and send him to him; and to the Elector for the same purpose, alledging, after several Flatteries, that *Luther* had boasted of the Favour and Protection of his Prince. The Elector, instead of complying, prevailed with the Legate, that he should plead his own Cause before the Emperor at *Ausburg*: But the Legate forgot his Promise. *Luther*, indeed, came, and conferr'd with him a great while, but was not suffer'd to apologize for himself in publick; so far from it, that the Legate insisted upon a *present Recantation*, and finding him steddily, proceeded to chiding and threatning, commanding him to depart. No sooner was he gone, but he wrote to the Elector, excusing

cusing himself, blaming *Luther*, and entreating his Highness, as he would consult his own Honour and Conscience, either to send him to *Rome*, or banish him his Country. To this the Elector answered, freely telling him, “ of his Carriage to “ *Luther*: That it seemed strange to desire “ him to retract, without hearing or granting him a fair Tryal: That he knew “ many learned and good Men, who “ were far from condemning him:—That “ their Opposition proceeded from Covetousness and Malice, because he had “ *spoil'd their Trade*:—That if his Error “ had been shewn to him, he had so great “ a Regard to the Glory of God, and the “ Peace of his own Conscience, that he “ would have, long ago, discharged the “ Duty of a Christian Magistrate:—That “ he could neither send him to *Rome*, nor “ banish him, because they had not yet “ demonstrated his Error; and because “ it would be a great Loss to the University, where he had done much Good; “ not to mention the great Esteem he had “ for him:—That he had sent him his “ Letter, and that he protested he was “ willing to defend himself in a *publick* “ *Disputation*, in any unsuspected Place, “ or *receive better Information*:—And “ that he thought this reasonable, that “ he

“ he himself might be satisfied what to
 “ follow; for as he could not knowingly
 “ and willingly approve any Error, so
 “ he would not condemn *Luther*, before
 “ his Error and Crime were detected.”

Thus did this wise Prince plead, both for himself and our Reformer. This is the more remarkable, if we consider, that tho’ this great Man connived at first at *Luther*, and took special care afterwards, that he should suffer no Injury; yet to that very day, he had not read *any of his Writings*, nor heard him preach since these Stirrs began, as he himself professed in a Letter to Cardinal *Kiario*, who upon the score of old Acquaintance, had friendly admonished him, not to undertake his *Protection*. From which, it would seem, That he intended to keep his Judgment about these Controversies, *free and unbiass’d*, till he should perceive what they made of them.

Next Year, *An. 1519*, died the Emperor *Maximilian*, and a great deal there was to do about a Successor. The two Competitors were, *Charles Arch-duke of Austria*, and then King of *Spain*, and *Francis King of France*. Our Prince, who was of great Authority among the Electors, was offered it; but he gloriously refused it, lest, to support the Imperial Dignity, he should be obliged to oppress his own Subjects.

jects. Much Interest was used, and Gold plentifully given by both sides; but our Hero, in opposition to *Francis*, who was favoured by the Pope, carried it for *Charles* of *Austria*; to whom, however, they proposed certain Conditions, or Limitations, for securing the Liberty, and preserving the Dignity of the Empire. And when *Charles's* Ambassadors offer'd him a great Sum of Money, on that Account, he not only rejected it with great Disdain, but commanded all about him likewise, not to take a Farthing. How ungratefully this Emperor rewarded the Brother and Nephew of the Elector of *Saxony*, these Papers will shew! As well as the great Sagacity of the Elector of *Triers*, who, when he perceived, that the rest followed the Opinion of our *Frederick* in their Choice, cried out, How do I foresee the Fate of *Germany*, and a Change a coming!

In the Spring, *An.* 1520, this great Prince fell sick, and was *dangerously ill*; upon which, *Luther* compiled a little Book, to comfort him at that Season, giving this as a Reason, that by the Command of our Lord, administering Assistance, Counsel, and Comfort to the Sick, was one of the chief Offices of Love and Duty, we owe to one another; adding, that seeing he was under the highest Obligations to his Highness,

ness, and not being in a Capacity to shew the World and *himself*, how much he was devoted to *his Service*, any other way ; he had, for his sake, composed *those Meditations*. And in a Letter to him, putting him in mind, that the Constitution of *human Bodies* was such, That when the *Head ailed in any measure*, all the Members sympathized, and each Part was sensible of the Pain, as if it self were *immediately* affected ; he very handsomly applies it to him, That all his Subjects were deeply affected with *his Indisposition*, and with good reason, since a very considerable Part of the Empire look'd upon him as their *greatest Ornament*, as well as *chief Defence*. This was a critical Juncture, much depended upon the Elector's Life, and God was pleased to hear the Prayers that were put up for him, and to recover him.

Not long after, he had a Suit depending at *Rome*, which, as his Agent there informed him, went but heavily on ; insinuating, that his Concern for *Luther*, was the true Cause of it. The Elector excused himself as well as he could, declaring he had not yet sifted the Controversy, nor *alter'd his Mind*, nor given any Encouragement to *Luther's Doctrine* ; throwing the Blame of his Stiffness, upon

the Folly and Rage of his Antagonists, who answered him with bitter Reproaches, and Invectives, instead of Arguments: --He confessed, he thought he had made two fair Proposals, that if he might have a *Safe-Conduct*, he would answer for himself wherever the Pope pleased; and that if they could point out and prove his *Errors*, he would chearfully recant. — But that, since People became acquainted with the *original* Languages, and were curious to *read* and *search the Scriptures*, many sober Men were of opinion, That if the Church proceeded to *censure* him, before a Hearing and fair Tryal, and a Refutation of *his Tenets* by *Scripture* or solid Arguments, all *Germany* would be in an Up-roar. The Pope in answer, let him know, That he was highly satisfied he had had *no Communion* with *Luther*, whom he calls a profligate Fellow, a pernicious Rascal, one as proud as *Lucifer*, &c. That he designed to *excommunicate* him, and accordingly sent him a Copy of the Bull; which he published *June 15*. Yea, when the Emperor was at *Cologne* and our Elector with him, he was vehemently pressed by the Legate, to command *all his Books to be burnt*; and that he would either *cause him to be executed in Saxony*, or *sent to Rome*. But the brave Elector replied as
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before, and desired that the Matter might be lovingly and quietly debated, by some godly and learned Men ; and that if *Luther* should be convinced *from the Word of God*, or by *solid Arguments*, he should not then, in any Degree, countenance him : But, be it how it would, he hoped, his Holiness would require nothing of him, that might not stand with his Honour. Yea, so far was he from yielding to the Pope, that he prevailed with the Emperor, at the Diet of *Worms*, *An. 1521*, to send for *Luther*, and give him a *publick Hearing*. *Charles* did so, and *Luther* went, and gloriously defended himself and his Cause, before them all. But the Emperor, to curry favour with the Pope, soon commanded him to return home, and quickly after *proscribes*, i. e. *outlaws* him ; and thereby gain'd his Point with *Leo*, who hereupon fell quite off from *Francis*, and made a League with him.

After the Publication of this Sentence, the wise Elector, perceiving the Danger, appointed some Gentlemen in whom he could confide, to convey him away to a certain Castle, (we think it was *Wurtzburg*) which was done with great Secresy and Diligence. While he was out of the way, the Ministers of *Wittemberg* and Professors of the University, began to leave

off saying *Mass*, to which they were encouraged by *Luther*, who assured them, that they had a strong Support in the Duke, who was a *wise Prince*, a *Lover of Truth*, and *most averse to rash Judging*. The Duke hearing of this, and fearing some Commotions, commanded, that the whole University should meet, consult together, and send their Opinion to him. They unanimously declared for the *total Abolition*, of that *Heap of Contradictions and Idolatries*; and humbly prayed him, to restore the *true Use of the Lord's Supper*, according to the *Institution of Christ*, and *Practice of the Apostles*, and of the *Universal Church*, for many Ages, without Regard to the Opposition, or Calumnies, of Gainfayers. The Elector, in all things like himself, professed that he would omit nothing, that might conduce to the Propagation of Truth and Piety; but that since the Matter was difficult, he was not for making too much haste. He represented to them some *probable Consequences* of it; and was glad to hear, that their *Judgment* was founded on *Scripture*: But because they were only a few, he advises them to proceed *moderately*. They having again conferred together, offered their Sentiments with much Piety and Zeal; and answered his Objections,

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alleging, that all Disturbances might be easily prevented: But if they should not, they urged, that *Sin* should not be tolerated, nor that which is good and just omitted. This honest Representation prevailed, and the *Mass* was abolished in *Wittemberg*, and not long after, in all his Dominions.

Luther, hearing of some Transactions at *Wittemberg*, which did not please him, sallied out of his Retreat, which he was wont to call his *Patmos*, and hasten'd thither, *An.* 1522, without his good Protector's Permission: But presently writ, to excuse himself to him. The Elector, by this time, having read the *Controversy*, and consider'd it well, not only waved *Luther's* Hurry, and secretly favour'd him as before, but ever after defended him openly, and more and more encouraged the *Reformation*. Inasmuch, that he allow'd him to put his own Sense upon the Decree of *Norimberg*, *An.* 1523. which seems indeed, to have been framed, if not to screen the Reformers altogether, yet to soften things as much as they could. Nor does it appear, that he took any notice, of the bitter Letter, our *Henry VIII.* wrote to him against them, if it was not prudently to lay it by.

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The next Year, viz. 1524. *Campegius* wrote him a *sawning* Letter, to recover him to their Party, and prevail with him to give up *the Reformers*; but without Success: Nor was he in the least moved, with the Resolutions of the *Popish* Princes against them, that Year, at *Ratisbone*; but continued stedfast till his Death, May 5, 1525. *Æt.* 62. He died a Batchelour, and was succeeded by his Brother JOHN, the *good* and the *constant*.

FREDERICK III. was a very *prudent* Prince, (as you may learn from his Sirname,) and of great Interest among the Electors, and indeed all over the Empire, both upon the account of his known Character, large Dominions, most illustrious Family, and numerous Relations. Pope *Leo*, to win him over to his Side, had sent him a *Golden Rose*, as a Token of his particular Respect and Love; which, with the other things hinted, sufficiently shews, of what Consequence, he was thought to be of to *the Reformation*. How ought we now to reverence the good Providence of God, in raising up a Prince of so much Wisdom, and of so great Power and Authority, to shelter, protect, and encourage them; and of such Firmness, as neither to be moved with Flatteries, nor appearing Dangers. He was the Prince, who,

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first of all, favoured *the Gospel*; and he lived to see *the Truth shining*, in the midst of that *Darkness*, notwithstanding all the Attempts of *Hell* and *Rome* to extinguish it. And indeed before his Death, several Princes, and many Cities, became great Sticklers for the *Reformation*.

His Brother JOHN, had been long a Hearer, and Admirer of *Luther*; a great Lover of *the Word of God*, and of *the Reformation of Religion*; and a truly *Christian*, and pious Prince. He succeeded to his Brother's Dignities and Dominions, inherited his Virtues, and followed his Steps, carrying on, with indefatigable Diligence, much Steadiness, and surprising Success, *the great and good Work*, which he had so happily begun. His first Appearance was against the *Boors*, whom he totally defeated, taking Prisoner that ambitious self-seeking Enthusiast, *Thomas Muncer*, their Deceiver, soon after the late Elector's Decease. In the Diet of *Spire*, *An. 1526*, he openly and steddily pursued the Interests of the Reformation, and, by his Address and Authority chiefly, (the Necessities of the State being also urgent,) obtain'd a favourable Decree, That a *lawful General*, or *Provincial Council of Germany*, should be held,

held, within a Year; That the severe Edict of *Worms*, should be suspended; and all should so behave themselves, in their several Provinces, as that they might be able to answer, both to God and the Emperor. God had, for some time, enlightened *Philip*, Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, a Prince of great Spirit and Courage, with the Knowledge of the Gospel; and from thenceforward, he joined with our Elector, and his Son, in all measures, for maintaining and promoting the common Cause. Before the passing of this Decree, these two sent for the Deputies of some of the Cities, who had also embraced the Reformation, and proposed this to them, That seeing their Religion was dear to them, and that it plainly appeared what the Papists drove at, they were thinking, whether a *League* and *Association* might not be made, for mutual Defence, in case any of them should be in danger for their Religion; with which they promised to acquaint their Principals: Nor are we to forget, That these reforming Princes brought their Preachers with them to the Diet; and when the rest of the Princes requested they might not preach, for fear, as they said, of Tumults, they flatly refused this. So zealous were they, for their

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Profession, and so much did they thirst after the Word!

Next Year, *June 2, 1527.* *John Frederick*, eldest Son of our good Elector, married the Lady *Sibylla*, Daughter to *John Duke of Cleve*, a pious Lady and staunch Protestant, he being then four and twenty. The Infanta *Catharine*, the Emperor's eldest Sister, had been espoused to him, and the Contract of Marriage thereupon signed and sealed; but upon the Change of Religion that happened in *Saxony*, the Match was broken off; *Charles's* Ambassador not sticking to say publicly, *That Faith was not to be kept with Heretics.*

At the Diet of *Spire, An. 1529.* the *Popish* Party carried all before them, with a high hand; and, tho' the Emperor was not present in Person, got a severe Decree pass'd against the *Reformation*, "That they who had hitherto observed the unhappy Edict of *Worms*, should continue to do so, and oblige their Subjects also to do the same:---- That those who had changed their Religion, and could not retract for fear of Seditions, should moderate themselves for the future, and make no more Innovations, before the sitting of the Council, so often then talk'd of: --- That the Doctrine of those who
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dissented from the Church, about *the Lord's-Supper*, should not be received, nor *the Mass abolished* :-- That Ministers should preach and expound Scripture, according to the *Sense* approved by *the Church*, &c. and that, under the Penalty, of being put to the BAN of the Empire."

The Design of this Edict was plainly to hamper the Reformers, and check *the Reformation*, 'till the Popish Party might utterly destroy it. But it was gloriously opposed, by JOHN, the Good and the Constant, Elector of Saxony, Ancestor of her Royal Highness AUGUSTA Princess of Wales; GEORGE Marquess of Brandenburg; ERNEST Duke of Lunenburg, then at the Head of that House, and Ancestor to his present Majesty GEORGE II. King of Great Britain; and FRANCIS his Brother; PHILIP Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, Ancestor of the present King of Sweden; and the Prince of ANHALT; who ALL publickly PROTESTED against it, April 19. before the Assembly of the States. "They pleaded the *last Decree*, which was confirmed by Oath, and from which they ought not to recede; and since it was made with the *unanimous Consent of all*, it could not be repealed, unless *all* in like manner agreed: — That in order to the quieting the Disturbances, a FREE Council

cil had been often desired, and promised, but now laying aside that Course, they had procured *this Decree*, against which they protested: Because it would oblige them, to forsake that Doctrine which they believed to be true; to tolerate or restore the Mass, which was contrary to the Word of God; and to recede from the Institution of our Saviour, and the primitive Practice, in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. — They wonder'd they should prescribe that to them, which they would not suffer themselves; or condemn any Doctrine without bearing it, especially since nothing like it was mention'd in the Emperor's Commission, &c. They professed, that the Scripture was the best Interpreter of itself, and only infallible, which therefore they would have purely taught, without regarding the Traditions of Men, which were vain, uncertain, and no sure Ground, or Rule, of Faith, &c. Some of the chief Cities joined with the Princes in this Protestation, as Strasburg, Norimberg, Ulm, &c. And from this Protestation it was, that they were called PROTESTANTS*. They then published

* See these things enlarged, and connected with the History of the Reformation, in the Supplement to the History of PERCY: now printing. I b nist do

an Appeal, from the Proceedings of this Diet, to the Emperor, a *lawful* General, or National Council of Germany, and to all impartial unsuspected Judges.

From this time the Princes, (of whom our Elector was the *first*, and *chief*;) and Cities, now called Protestants, acted in Concert. They dispatched Ambassadors to the Emperor, to *justify* themselves; and ordered their Divines to draw up a *Confession of their Faith*, that the World might know what *was believed and taught* among them; and to stop the Mouths of the *lying Papists*, who shamefully misrepresented *their Doctrines and Worship*.

These Proceedings alarmed the Pope and his Clergy, and mightily irritated the Emperor against them; and therefore Charles, who was the next Year, 1530, crowned by the Pope, was prevailed upon, to discharge the two Sons of the French King, whom he kept as Hostages for their Father, upon Condition, That they *all Three* should join in a League against the Protestants, to *bring them back* to the Church by force, or *utterly destroy them*. The Princes were soon informed of this: But nothing terrified, they presented their *Confession* to the Emperor, in a Diet at *Ausburg*; and having, with much ado, obtain'd Leave, they read it publicly in

a full Assembly; our pious *Electors* holding it in his own Hand, and reading or giving it to be read. This occasioned no small Stir. They answered and replied to each other; the Emperor insisting that their *Confession* was refuted, and JOHN the *Constant*, as resolutely maintaining, that it was not. Here again another Decree passed, or was proposed against them, of which they could not so much as obtain a Copy! They therefore gloriously vindicated themselves, and without finching in the least, committed their Cause to God, in whom, they said, was their Hope of Salvation; and having taken their Leaves, departed. In this whole Matter, they behaved with great Prudence, and a laudable Zeal; and to shew what a serious Spirit then prevailed amongst them, they had brought their Ministers with them; and when the Emperor sent them Word to attend him to the Church as usual, and to discharge their Divines from *Preaching*; tho' all the other Princes were present, not one of them would stain themselves to be Witnesses of such gross Idolatry; nor would they impose Silence on their Divines, till their Cause should be heard. Yea, when the Diet was opened, and the Emperor being to go to *Mass*, according to Custom,

commanded the Elector to be there, and to carry the Sword before him; that being the Duty of the House of SAXONY, on such solemn Occasions; He would not go, till he had consulted his Divines; who told him, That he might lawfully do it, since he was called upon to *do his Duty*, and not *to go to Mass*; and then he went, accompanied by George Marquis of Brandenburg, but not one of the rest came. A noble Instance, of great Zeal for the Glory of God, and extraordinary Tenderness of Conscience, seldom observable among the Great! Oh! when shall we hear of so much Seriousness amongst Princes?

Not long after, the Elector had a Letter from the Emperor, commanding him to come to *Cologne*, about some great Affairs, which, he soon learned, was the Election of a King of the Romans. Upon this, he wrote to his Fellow-Protestants, to meet him at *Smalcald*, a Town in his own Dominions; and dispatched his noble Son, *John Frederick*, to *Cologne*, to represent, That his Citation was not *legal*, and that the Creation of a King of the Romans, at that time, and in their then Circumstances, was a signal Violation of the Rights and Liberties of the Empire,

and of the Statute of the Emperor *Charles IV.* But this being not to our purpose, we pass it. Mean while the Princes being come to *Smalcald*, and having consider'd the Danger they were in, by reason of the League between the Pope, Emperor, and French King, and that a King of the Romans would not lessen it. They drew up the Draught of a League, not offensive, but purely for their own Defence, and that only as to Matters of Religion, which, they all, and some other Princes, and the Deputies of several Cities, immediately signed. They agreed also, to write to the King of Denmark, and some other Princes and Cities, who had embraced the Reformation, to join with them in it. The Papists had given them an Example, and by the Constitution of the Empire, they might legally enter into such an Association. It was purely defensive, warranted by the Law of Nature, the Rules of common Prudence, and what could do hurt to no one. Our Collector was the chief Manager, he first set his Hand to it, and with great Firmness, continued to pursue the Ends of it. And this it was, that made them so considerable, and staved off the Projects, that were laid to ruin them, for many Years. But all these together, seem to have

wrought up the Emperor to such a Degree of Hatred and Malice, against this glorious Prince, and his Illustrious House, that he never gave over, till he had wreck'd his Revenge upon them sufficiently. He seems before these, to have stood in fear of him, and to have envy'd him the great Reputation he had in *Germany*. But from thenceforward, perceiving that he would be a Bar in the way of his insatiable Ambition, and forgetting all the Favours he owed to his Brother, to whom he was obliged for the *Imperial Dignity*, he entertained such a Jealousy of him, and Prejudice against him, as never to forgive him, nor his Son, after him.

In the Month of *February*, *An. 1531* our Elector summon'd all his Allies, to meet at *Smalcald* next Month, to concert Measures against any Attempt that might be made upon them, and himself being ill, his Son went in his place, where they strengthened the Confederacy, and consulted for their mutual Safety. But an Incursion of the *Turks* dispell'd their then present Fears, Some Mediators offering afterwards to interpose for a *Reconciliation*. He and the Landgrave let them know, That they were fix'd in their Principles, and were not to be mov'd, unless they could be confuted from the Word of God:

God: So that this, which seems to have been intended, rather to *divide and weaken* them, than for any good, through *their Resolution*, came to nothing. A Diet being appointed at *Spire*, in *September*, our Elector would not come, but upon some Conditions, which shew the noble Spirit of this great Patriot, and his true Love to his Country. He had observed some things, in some former Diets, which were none of the *best Precedents*; he could not be without the *Word of God*, nor his Preachers, where ever he was, nor could he endure any *Difference of Meats* to be prescribed to him, especially now he was grown old and sickly; he had often applied to the Emperor, for his Investiture, without effect; was surely informed, that he had great Resentments, against him, which he had but little deserved; and therefore insisted upon a *Safe-Conduct*, both for himself and Friends, which if it might be obtain'd, he promised not to absent himself. But before the Diet came, this great and good Man exchanged this Life for a better, *August 6, 1532. Æt. 65.* the Emperor having, upon Necessity, that he might obtain present Aid against the *Turks*, confirmed a Peace to all *Germany*, at *Nürnberg*, commanding, *That no Disturbance should be given to any Man upon*
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the account of Religion, till a Council should meet, or the States of the Empire should find out some Expedient, to heal and compose their Differences. The Confederates, at that time, were seven Princes and twenty-four Cities, to whom many were afterwards added.

This Prince, as we may be satisfied from these Hints, well deserved his Surnames, the Good and the Constant. He was a Prince of great Virtues, serious, zealous, and persevering in the Truth. After his Advancement, his whole Life seems to have been spent in promoting the Reformation; in which he had great Success. His being the first in the Grand Protestation, the Person who presented the Confession to the Emperor, and the Author of the Smalcaldic League, of which, without any Disparagement to the rest, he was the Life and Soul, shew how great a Man he was. In his private Character, he seems to have been a true Christian, adorning his Profession by his whole Conversation, which was plain and honest, affable and gentle, devout and thoughtful, firm and steady. He was almost adored by his Subjects, and, in a word, lived beloved, and died lamented. Happy in seeing the Reformation making its way, maugre all Opposition, the Confederates,

derates, *all of one Heart*; and the *Peace* of his Country confirm'd, before his Death. Yea, happy in leaving *such a Son* behind him; who became yet more famous than either his Father or Uncle. These shone in Prosperity, and display'd themselves to advantage, in *acting* for Christ: He was not short of them in this, but was to appear *illustrious*, in Sufferings also for the Truth! Sufferings for the best Cause ever a great Man suffered for, the *Religion of Jesus*, the *Freedom of his Conscience*, and the *Liberty of his Country*.

JOHN FREDERICK was now about 29. He had been virtuously educated, and proved a great *Lover and Defender* of the *Truth*. Pope Clement VII. being mightily importun'd by the Emperor, to call a Council, could not help doing something to satisfy him, tho' he feared one above all things; but being a cunning Man, he found means to excuse himself, by various Shifts, for many years. However, as we said, something must be done: he therefore writes to our new Elector, *An. 1533.* as if he desired to know what kind of a Council they wanted; slyly insinuating what sort of an one he would grant. Our Prince and his Confederates, plainly told him, it was a Council in *Germany*, *FREE and CHRISTIAN*; a Council in
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an *unsuspected* Place, where *every one might be heard*, and in which, the *Word of God* was to be the *Rule* and the *Judge*. Next Year, *An. 1534.* means were used to reconcile the Elector and *FERDINAND*, the Emperor's Brother; in which he procur'd very advantageous Articles for the *Protestants* of the *Ausburg* Confession, upon condition of his acknowledging him King of the *Romans*. And, tho' it does not appear, that *CHARLES* confirm'd it, yet it is a plain Evidence of what Consideration he was then thought to be.

Paul III. the new Pope, a Monster of Wickedness, if any ever was, sent *Gergerius* his Nuncio, to the Confederates, *An. 1535.* to treat with them about the Council; in which he followed the old Strain of flattering, insinuating, objecting against their Demands, and sounding their Inclinations. But, to all these, they answered as before, That they earnestly desired a Council, such as might answer some valuable Ends. The *Protestants*, by the way, had all along pleaded for a Council, not only to gain time, and to decline his Holiness's Censure; but hoping they might have an Opportunity of combating the *Papal Authority*, discovering the numberless *Errors*, *Heresies*, *Idolatries* and *Corruptions* of the Church of Rome;

Rome; and thereby *paving the way for an universal Reformation.* On the other hand, the Pope and his Clergy were determin'd never to admit of any of these; and therefore resolv'd, That if a Council must be called, the Pope should preside; he should be sure of a Majority among the Members; Councils, Canons, Traditions, should be at least a joint Rule with the Bible; and the Protestants should either *not at all be heard, or not allowed decisive Voices.* And hence so many Shifts and Pretexts were used, either to put it off altogether, or if that could not be, to have one for their purpose, which they were sure the Protestants would never admit of. In the mean time, the *Reformation* gain'd ground, almost in all Nations of *Europe*; and in *Germany*, it made its way more and more every day: the Confederates acting by concert, and new Cities daily desiring to be taken into their Alliance. They therefore assembled again at *Smalcald*, and renewed the League for ten years longer. Here Ambassadors from our *HENRY VIII.* met them, and had some very serious Consultations about admitting him into the League, which would have very much strengthned the Interest. They propos'd an *Union in Doctrine*; that they should not admit of any
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Council, but what should be *lawful* and *free*, and by common Consent; that they should assist each other in case they were attack'd; and that HENRY should be the *Patron* and *Defender* of the League: But the melancholy Death of Queen ANN BULLEN, An. 1536. broke all these promising Hopes.

The War breaking out again between the Emperor and the French King; and FRANCIS having hinted to them, that his Enemy was not sincere in his Promises to them; and that he would break with them as soon as Conveniency offered: CHARLES, knowing of what consequence their Friendship would be, wrote very kindly to them, assuring them, that he would *most punctually* fulfill his Promises, and not molest any Person upon the account of Religion; which they received and accepted with much Satisfaction, and many Thanks. And thus Providence provided for their Quiet some years longer.

Soon after, viz. An. 1537. they sent Ambassadors to the Emperor, to confute the Report, that they were entring into an Alliance with the Kings of *England* and *France*; to desire that he would check the Proceedings of the Chamber of *Spire* against them; and that those who were admitted into the League, after the former

mer Pacification, might enjoy the Benefit of it. Then the Pope sent his Legate with Letters for our Elector, inviting him to the Council, which as he gave out, was quickly to meet at *Mantua*. But he, having advised with his inseparable Friend the Landgrave, and the others his Confederates, very bravely objected against the *Pope's Council*, the Place, the Members, the Nature and Manner, the End of it, and the Rule by which, he heard, they were to determine all Matters. The Place, being in *Italy*, he said, was not safe; the *Members*, all the Pope's Creatures, or sworn to him, were not FREE; the *Nature* of it, not agreeable to Equity, or the Antient Councils; the *Manner* of it tyrannical, since they, nor their Divines, were to have no *definitive Votes* in it; the *End*, not the *Reformation of Corruptions*, the express words of the Bull bearing, That it was called to *extirpate the pestilent Lutheran Heresy*; and the *Rule* of it, not the *Scriptures*, but their own Traditions, Decrees, and corrupt Expositions of Scripture. The Pope, who was as much afraid of a Council as themselves; (fearing, that let him do what he could, they would *abridge his Authority and Power*, and enquire into the Abuses of his Court,) wanted no more; and

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therefore prorogued his Council, tho' under another Pretence, first till *November*, and then till *May*, An. 1538. appointing *Vicenza* for the Place; and again till *Easter*, 1539. Mean while, upon a Report of an Invasion from *Turkey*, the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, a Protestant, but not of the *League*, is employed to write to our Heroe, desiring Assistance: But he bade him consider their Circumstances, that it would not be prudent in them to exhaust themselves upon a *Turkish* War, till a Peace was confirmed at home; a Peace *fair* and *honourable*, likely to hold, and not drawn up in ambiguous Terms. For CHARLES, notwithstanding his fine Promises, found means to *shuffle* from time to time; and either delay or refuse the Performance. A great deal of *Talk* indeed there was, about a Reconciliation. Mediators offer'd their Service, and the Divines were ordered, by an Assembly at *Smalcald*, An. 1540. to draw up a Scheme of Doctrines, upon which they were to treat about an Accommodation: But it was *all Sham*, and intended only, either to divide, expose, trick, or amuse them, till he could play his Game the surer. All that they desired was, that the free Exercise of their *Religion* might be so confirmed to them, as not to be shaken by a Bull

Bull from *Rome*, or any other trifling Pretext. In all other things, they would have been his most obedient and faithful Subjects; and none of them more so than the Elector of *Saxony*: Whence it is very evident, he might have easily contented them, if he would. But nothing was farther from his Thoughts, as is now palpable from the whole of his Actions, for many Years. It was not a *Reconciliation* he desired; nor did he want to have any thing to do with them, except when Necessity obliged him: His Project being, to find some Colour to make War upon them; to attack them before they could be prepared; and under the Pretence of reducing them to the Church, to break their Power; that he might the more easily destroy the Liberties of the Empire, and found a sort of *Universal Monarchy* in his own Family. He had encouraged some of the most bigotted *Popish* Princes, to enter into a League against them: He could never be brought, *frankly*, to grant them a Decree to secure their Peace; nor put a stop to the Proceedings of the *Imperial* Chamber against them: When any *Conferences* were like to do them any Service, (witness that at *Worms*, 1541.) he found means to dissolve them: And, to name but one more, when the Elector

and Landgrave accused HENRY Duke of *Brunswick*, a most violent Papist, and mortal and restless Enemy of the *Reformation*, of having suborned and hired some wicked *Incendiaries*, to set fire to the Towns and Villages in *Saxony*; which the Wretches that were apprehended confess'd, and testified, with their last Breath; He could never be brought heartily to discourage, or reduce him to his Duty. When the *French King* and he were at War, he was glad to flatter them; and when a *Turkish Invasion* was at hand, he could, in great Condescension, as he would have them think, grant them an *ambiguous* Edict, which he himself would explain; or give them *private Promises*, as at *Ratisbone*, 1541. under his Hand, which he never dreamt of fulfilling.

Our Elector and his Allies, were sensible of these things; they were therefore upon their Guard, that they might not be drawn into the Net; were ready to *oblige*, when themselves were *obliged*; did all they could for *Peace*, and were glad to have it continued, tho' with many Inconveniencies, observing that their Religion gain'd most ground when all was quiet; admitted many Cities and Princes into their League, which did not a little strengthen the Interest; and kept up a proper

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Correspondence with our HENRY VIII. and the *French* King : But would never enter into any Articles with them against the Emperor, or upon any other Score, than the account of Religion. In this CHARLES had the Advantage of them. They would do nothing inconsistent with *Honour*, and downright *Honesty* : He professed one thing, and meant another ; of which he gave another Proof, in the Year 1542, and 1543. when the *French* War continued. He could then wheedle and flatter, even when his Heart was most alienate from them : But as soon as his Fears were over, he would by no means forgive the Elector and Archbishop of *Cologne*, who had begun, and endeavoured to settle the *Reformation* in his Dominions. Religion, however, was making its Progress ; and the Churches were flourishing, under such wise and united Counsels and Protectors.

Of all the Princes, as our Elector was the chief, so the Emperor could not but dread him most. He knew he was proof against all Temptations, where Religion was concern'd ; and therefore, in a Diet at *Spire*, 1544. another Bait was laid. The Emperor would never confirm his Marriage, according to the Custom or Law of the Empire ; and the Elector would ne-

ver acknowledge FERDINAND, for King of the *Romans*. This Affair being now brought upon the Carpet, was accommodated; and if the Duke of *Cleve*, whose Sister he had married, should die without Male Issue, he confirmed the Succession to the Duke of *Saxony*. And, as a closer Link, FERDINAND's Daughter is betrothed to the Elector's eldest Son, of his own Name; and most favourable Promises were given to all the Protestants, and a Decree much to their Satisfaction made, to the great disgust of the Papists. But the Pope's sharp Letter, and warm Expostulations, having prevailed with CHARLES to make Peace with *France*, and he having obtain'd a Truce with the *Turks*, all these fine things vanished into Air; and, in a little while, we find him pursuing our Heroe with an Army.

The Protestants having obtained this Edict of the Emperor, and freely sent him all the Succours he demanded against *France* and the *Turks*, lived without Fear or Suspicion. But CHARLES having great things in view, calls a Diet at *Worms*, An. 1545. and among other things, caused them to be acquainted, That now a Council was called, if not met, at *Trent*; that he had prevailed with the *French* King to submit to it: and desired, that
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laying aside the other Scheme, by *Conferences* or a *National Council*, they would also do the same. They, surprized at all this, plainly declared, That they thought it neither a *free*, nor a *lawful* Council, and therefore protested against it; and pleaded, That the former Decree might be observed, none molested on the account of his Religion, and that the Imperial Chamber be regulated: But the Papists, were for referring all to the Council, in which the Emperor supported them. Affairs being in this Tendency to a Rupture, the Arrogance of HENRY Duke of *Brunswick* hurried them on to a War. He was of a turbulent Nature, and dissolute Manners, and a violent Enemy of the Protestants; who had several Years ago learned, by some intercepted Letters, his mischievous Designs against them. He had had some Quarrels with them a good while before; and going at this time to *France*, prevailed with the King to let him have a great Sum of Money, under Colour of raising Forces against the King of *England*; then at War with FRANCIS. With this Money he levies an Army, and falls into the Lower *Saxony*, plundering wherever he came; and threatening the *Hans-Towns* with Fire and Sword, if they would not

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renounce the League of *Smalcald*. This alarmed the Protestants, suspecting that all was done with the Emperor's Connivance, if not Direction; and that he would quickly declare War himself, if HENRY met with Success. The Emperor had commanded him to lay down his Arms, and prosecute his Pretensions in a Course of Law: But this Mandate had no effect; which confirmed their Jealousies. In all haste therefore, they raised Forces, under the Command of the Landgrave, who was soon joined by ERNEST of *Brunswick*, and MAURICE of *Saxony*, with their Troops; which, in some time, forced him to surrender himself. And now what put their Suspicions out of all doubt, was, that the Emperor would not inflict any Penalty upon him and his Allies, for *violating the Peace* of the Empire; and made, all the while, great *Military* Preparations every where, under Pretence of a *Turkish* War.

However, another Diet is appointed to meet at *Ratisbone*, in *June* 1546. and here, after a great deal to do about the Council, the Protestants insisting, That the Edict of *Spire* should be observed; and the Emperor being as positive, that the Decision of all Matters concerning Religion, should be left to the Council of *Trent*; which, with a great deal of Im-
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portunity, he had got to be called, as he said, in Condescension to them: They came to an open Rupture. CHARLES had made a League with the Pope, who promised him both Men and Money; and sent to the *Low Countries* for all the Forces could be spared; and being, as he thought, pretty sure, now threw off the Mask, declared War against the Protestants, and outlawed the Elector of *Saxony* and the Landgrave. It is, by the way, to be observ'd, that the Pope pretended, by this War, to *extirpate the Protestant Religion*; and the Emperor to reduce some haughty, seditious, insolent Princes to their Duty, &c. Thus, each had their distinct, and very different Views in this, as well as in the calling of the Council! And now, all sides arm, and nothing is to be heard of in *Germany* but the Noise of War. And had all the Protestants join'd together; or if those that were not willing to *fight for their Religion*, had but been Neuter; the Emperor could never have been able to oppose the Princes. He was very sensible, it would be no easy matter to subdue so potent a Nation, by any other hands than their own; and therefore had secured, not only the Popish, but several Protestant Princes also; who raising their Forces, when the *Italians* and *Spaniards* came to join them,

them, became formidable. The Protestant Chiefs were not wanting on their part; they wrote to their Allies, and to the neighbouring Kings and States, rendezvous'd their Troops, were first in the Field, and published a *Declaration of War* against the Emperor. They were most numerous at first: And had they been commanded by any one of the Chiefs, with the *Power proper* for one who has the Conduct of an Army, they might have done what they would: But the *different Opinions* of the *Generals*, and the *Equality of Command* in a great many *hands*, was the Cause, (as it usually is) of their being so *slow, unactive, and uncertain* in all their Measures; which was of the greatest Advantage to the Emperor, and proved fatal to them. CHARLES was an old experienced Soldier, who had fought many Battles with various Enemies, and lost no Opportunities. He had the sole Command, and would be obeyed; and knew how to improve it. Whereas the Protestants, by the means above mention'd, are said to have lost many Advantages, which they could never again recover. Many Skirmishes happened, with various Success: But the Emperor would never come to a Battle, well knowing he could more easily keep his
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Army together, than they could do theirs; besides, that his Strength was encreasing every day, as theirs was not. However, in all Probability, considering how dearly and universally the Princes were belov'd, and the strength of the *League*, they might have tired the Emperor out at last; as they had obliged him to be continually upon his Guard, all this Summer; had it not been, for the vile Treachery of Duke MAURICE of *Saxony*.

He was second Cousin to the Elector; a Protestant, who had made several Regulations concerning Religion, and would be thought a staunch Defender of the *Ausburg* Confession; but a wonderful Master of Dissimulation, and, under a great deal of Complaisance, and seeming Good-Nature in his Looks, concealed an infinite Ambition. His Father HENRY was a Protestant, and a pious Person; whose Estate, during his Brother GEORGE's Life, was but small; wherefore the Elector took this MAURICE under his own Tuition. Upon his Uncle's Death, his Father HENRY succeeded, contrary to the Will of the Deceased; in which also he was assisted by our *Heroe*. After HENRY's Death, MAURICE and his Brother were under his Guardianship; and he took care of them and their Affairs, with

with all imaginable Integrity and Affection, as if they had been his own Sons. So that he, and his Family, owed almost their All to him. When he was just come of Age, he had a Dispute with this his faithful Cousin, about their Marches; and having once lost all his Money to him at some Play, he pressed him still to play on, and would needs stake a Town, which he lost also: Hereupon, the Elector gave him a sharp Reprimand, admonishing him to play for the future with more Moderation; which this *Ingrate* resented so highly, that the Landgrave, whose Daughter he had married, could hardly keep him from making War upon his great Benefactor, and best Friend. From that Moment, he entertain'd such an Enmity against him, as was never removed. He had served as a Volunteer in the Wars against the *Turks* and the *French*, became ingratiated with the Emperor, who had concerted Measures with him before this unhappy Rupture; and who had promised him the *Electorate*, and the greatest part of our Heroe's Dominions, if he would take part with him against him. No sooner had CHARLES *out-lawed* the Elector, but he wrote to him to execute the BAN of the Empire against him, and seize his Estate, lest another should do it before

fore him. MAURICE, notwithstanding his Obligations to him, the Landgrave's most earnest Intreaties, and his own Lady's Tears, (after he had written a most treacherous Letter to the Elector, pretending to be very much terrified at the Emperor's BAN) being joined by some Regiments of *Hussars*, and *Bobemians* who were forced against their Wills, falls into the Elector's Country, and after three or four Engagements with some raw, new-raised Soldiers, without their Head, in a few weeks over-run all; and reduced all his Towns, but *Wittenberg*, *Gotha*, and *Eysenach*. This *unparalleled* Ingratitude and Treachery, tho' it render'd him *extremely odious*, yet it broke all the Measures of the Confederates at once; and raised the Emperor, whose Affairs were before, in a *doubtful* Condition at best, (having the Pestilence in his Camp, and being oppressed with Famine) almost above all Apprehensions. The Protestants upon this, sue for Peace; but in vain: They could not force an Engagement; and therefore were obliged to separate, without any Memorable Action, after they had faced the Enemy a long time together. They therefore decamped, *November 23.* and perceiving the Cities, who were terrified at the Thoughts of being plundered by the *Spaniards*, in

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case

case they held out, surrendering one after another, and upon hard Conditions too; divide their Forces.

The Elector, with his Army, went homeward, soon recovered his own Country, and reduc'd all that belonged to *Maurice*, except *Leipsic* and *Dresden*. The Emperor hearing of his Success, presently dispatched *Albert* of *Brandenburg*, with a strong Detachment to assist *Maurice*. But, at *Rochitz*, which had surrendered to him, our Elector routed him with a great Slaughter, took the Town and *Albert* himself Prisoner, and a very great Booty. This produced great Changes in *Bohemia*, and not a little encouraged the Protestants; when the Elector of *Brandenburg*'s declaring for the Emperor, again humbled them.

Mean while, our Elector, who had levied a great many Recruits, sent the *Boors* to defend his Towns and Castles, of which he had a great many; and the other Troops he divided, so as to cut off the Emperor's Provisions, if he entered *Saxony*. *Charles*, on the other hand, being more apprehensive of him, than of all the rest; and thinking, that if he had him in his power, he could do well enough with them; perceiving also, that his Army was encreasing, while his own
was

was daily diminishing; and, above all, fearing lest the Protestants should unite, and by any means get to him; (which considering the distance at which the Cities lay, and the various Humours, Interests, and Views of so many Societies, could not easily be done;) resolved to engage him, as soon as possible. Accordingly, taking none but his Cavalry with him, by very quick Marches, he overtook him at *Mulberg*, (a Name, says *Thuanus*, which the *Germans* have always observed to be very ominous to great Princes!) before he could possibly get his Forces, who were most part Infantry, together; where, after a bloody Fight, *April 24, 1547*, which lasted till Night, he was at length overpowered by Numbers. The Elector did every thing that a brave and gallant General could do; but having received a Wound in his left Cheek, whilst he was gloriously defending himself, the Largeness of his Stature, and Majesty of his Countenance, distinguishing him from others, he was taken Prisoner, and brought on his Horse before the Emperor, the Blood streaming down his Face from the Wound he had received in the Action.

Charles treated his *Illustrious Prisoner* haughtily, and committed him, and Duke *Ernest* of *Brunswick*, who was taken

with him, to the Custody of a *Spanish* Colonel, who some Days after carried them, as it were in Triumph, in a Chariot, to *Torgaw*, our Heroe's Country-Seat, famous for the most beautiful and magnificent Castle in *Germany*, into which seeing a *Spanish* Garrison enter, he turned to the Colonel, saying, with a Smile, *Behold the Spoils!* which *Maurice*, if he *hath nothing else to make him uneasy*, may glory in; tho' he owes it neither to his own Power nor Courage. This he said to insinuate the Vileness of his Conduct, the Contempt he had of the Greatness he had acquired by such odious means, and *his own Magnanimity under his Afflictions*. His Fellow-prisoner finding fault with him, as insulting his own Calamity: Why, replied he, should I vex myself about things, which ought not to affect us because not in our power to remedy? *Ernest*, notwithstanding this, fetching a deep Sigh, our Hero turned, and said to him softly; The same Advice I take myself, I would give to you, were you capable of taking it. When one cannot defend himself against a stronger Power from without, there is yet one thing he may do, even *fortify his Mind with the Precepts of Wisdom*. If you are grieved, that you are worsted in the Field, get the

the better of your Dishonour by Constancy; and shew that you are above your Adversity. Thus will you rob your Adversary of his Victory, and be yourself his Conqueror in your Turn. This is a ready, and certain way, to *take Revenge upon your Enemy*, even while you remain his Prisoner. Thus did our Hero preserve an admirable Constancy; and shine more glorious than ever.

Soon after, the Emperor marches to *Wittemberg*, the Capital of the Elector's Dominions, a fine City, pleasantly situated, not quite half a Mile from the *Elbe*, and well fortified both by Art and Nature; which he summoned to surrender. The Inhabitants answered him haughtily, and threatned to treat *Albert*, as he did their dear *Sovereign*. *Charles*, considering that the Town he must have, at any rate, since, without it, his Victory was far from being complete; and perceiving, it would be hard to reduce it, fell upon this Stratagem. He knew the Elector himself was proof against all he *could say or do*; but imagined, that *Pronouncing the Sentence of Death* upon him, for *Rebellion*, as he pretended, might have an effect upon his Wife and Children, who were then in the City, and force them to surrender it to save his Life: Nor was he mistaken.

The Elector was setting in his Tent, with the Prince his Fellow-prisoner, when the Sentence, pronounced with great Solemnity, was *notified* to him in Form. He received the News, (says *Tbuanus*) without any Change of Countenance, or shewing the least Concern; but looking pleasantly on the Messenger, "What then, says he, must I die, if *Wittemberg* is not surrendered; for it is not my Life, so much as the Place, they want? But these things do not move me at all: I only wish, they would have as little Effect upon my dear Wife, my Children and Friends, who are more in danger of suffering by my Misfortune, than I am myself; for whatever they give up upon my account, will be lost to them, and yet be of no Service to me. — Were I left to my own Choice, I had rather welcome present Death, leaving my Children in possession of what belongs to them, than live never so long, and see them stripped of their Dominions. I will not, however, oppose their sacrificing somewhat to their Piety and Affection; provided they do not, out of their Love to me, neglect what they owe to their own Safety." And when he had thus spoken, he ask'd Prince *Ernest* to play a Game at
Chefs

Chefs with him; shewing, by this his Firmness and Composure of Mind, the great Contempt which he had of Death, as well as of *his Enemy*.

This Sentence, against so *illustrious a Person*, and the Danger he was in, (if we consider the Emperor's Designs and Power, at this time,) alarmed not only his sorrowful Family, but the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and others, who, in all haste, repair'd to the Camp, to interceed for him. Even *Maurice*, the *Ingrate*, fearing his Children might become desperate, and resolute to hold out to the last Extremity; and so he be disappointed of the Dignity, and Inheritance of our glorious Elector, which he already grasped as his own; and hoping to lessen the implacable Hatred of the *Saxons* against him, became an Intercessor for his Kinsman, the Emperor and he having so agreed between them. At last the Sentence was remitted, upon these *hard Conditions*, among many others; That he should *renounce the Electoral Dignity* for *himself* and his *Children*; to be disposed of at the Conqueror's Pleasure: That he should deliver up *Wittemberg*, and *Gotha* the second Fortrefs in his Dominions:---That all his *Goods* and *Chattels* be confiscated to the Emperor, &c. This Treaty, the noble Elector, upon the most

most vehement Importunity of his beloved Lady, his Children, Brother, and the Princes his Friends, ratified, a few Days after. One of the Articles proposed was, That he should submit to the Decrees of the Emperor, or Council of Trent, in *Matters of Religion*: But no Menaces, nor even the Apprehension of *present Death*, could prevail with him in *this Point*; so that the Emperor, who minded his own ambitious Views, more than Religion, ordered that Article to be struck out.

Within three Days, this glorious Prince released the Garrison of their Oath to him, and ordered the City to be delivered up. The same Day, the Electress with her Children came to the Camp, threw herself at the Conqueror's Feet, and with a Flood of Tears, besought him for her Husband's Liberty; but without Effect. In another Point indeed, he prevented her Sollicitation, and permitted our illustrious Confessor, to spend a Week in the Town with her and his Children: He accepted the Offer, and at his Departure, made great Presents to the *Spanish* Soldiers his Guards, the Alteration of his Circumstances no way lessening *his former Greatness of Soul*.

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Mean while, Count *Mansfield*, one of his Allies, defeated *Eric* of *Brunswic*, which gave no small Uneasiness to the Emperor, fearing that *Mansfield's* Troops, elated with this Success, should give fresh Spirits to the *Bobemians*, and others: But he was not long under these Apprehensions. The Protestant Confederates were more disheartned at the Elector's Captivity, than raised by their own Victory; as if they believed (says *Thuanus*,) that *the whole Strength of Germany lay in that Prince*.

The unhappy Consequences of *this Disaster*, are not to be number'd. Princes, and Cities, one after another, were forced to submit to the Will of the Conqueror. The Protestant *League* was almost quite destroyed: And now *Charles* carried all before him, nor durst any presume to dispute his Orders; insomuch, that the Pope and his Clergy, yea, all the neighbouring Kings and States, began to be jealous of his Intentions, and to dread his Power. And indeed, next year, finding that little was to be expected from the Council, he determined to shew his Holiness, he could do without him; and therefore proposed *his INTERIM*, till Matters should be determined by a Council in *Germany*. This was a Form of Religion, containing *all* the

the Doctrines of *Popery*, a little softened and disguised, excepting only, that *the Priests were permitted to marry*, and the *Communion* might be given in *both Kinds*, to those that desired it. And now, the Protestants must submit to this too, or feel the Imposer's Resentments! Many, alas, too many! were wheedled, flatter'd, frightened, or forced to comply: But nothing could move *our illustrious Confessor*; no, not in the least. Ever like himself, he withstood all Temptations and Promises, and gloriously *maintained his Principles*. When, said he, the Emperor proposed that I should approve of his, and the Council's future Decrees concerning Religion, and found I was not to be shaken, he waved it. This, I then looked upon as a very singular Favour, and being eased of that Importunity, as of a very heavy Burden, I bore more easily, all the other *hard Conditions*, whereby he disposed of me and my Fortune, at his Pleasure; hoping, that *my Religion*, at least, *might be my own*. I here protest, I believe *this Doctrine* to be altogether agreeable to that of our *Blessed Saviour, the Prophets, and Apostles, &c.* This Constancy, which would have moved a generous Soul, put them upon using him more harshly! For *Popery* erases all the Principles of

of *Humanity* out of the Breasts of its Vo-
 taries! All *religious Books* were now taken
 from him; and he was enjoined to *abstain*
from Flesh on Fife Days. The Preacher
 also, whom, till now, they had permit-
 ted to attend him, finding himself in im-
 minent Danger, privately slipt away in
 Disguise. But he was not alone; *his God*
was with him. His Sons also, were as
 steady as he; and resolutely scorn'd *such*
scandalous Compliance. Yea, when the
 Emperor himself applied to *our illustrious*
Confessor, his Prisoner, desiring him to
 use his *Authority* with them, he gloriously
 answered; *I will never persuade my Sons to*
do That, which I cannot with a good Con-
science, do my self. What a Reproach was
 this to the dissembling, tyrannizing Em-
 peror? Had he had any free or noble
 Sentiments left, he must have admired,
 he must have loved him. Thus did *our*
Confessor shine in his Captivity! and gain-
 ed more and more upon all the World,
 except *Charles*, who by this time must
 needs have both reverenc'd and fear'd
 him. And indeed, nothing seems more
 to confirm us in this, than his watching
 him strictly, and carrying him very often
 with him, wherever he went.

Almost three Years after this, when
 the Ministers of *Ausburg*, who had been,
 long

long in Chains for refusing *the Interim*, were banished, *An. 1551*, this glorious Prince, who knew what *Imprisonment* was, sent Messengers to comfort them, and out of what he had left, sent them also *Money at their Departure*. This was a very extraordinary Instance of his noble Generosity; and gives us a very lovely Idea of him. He remembered for whose sake they suffered, and therefore sympathised with them, *as their Brother and Companion in Tribulation, and in the Kingdom and Patience of Jesus Christ.**

At length, after he had been a Prisoner full five Years, the Emperor being almost surprized by *Maurice at Inspruck*, set him at liberty, *An. 1552*. dismissing him with many kind Expressions, and large Promises of Favour; the only Acknowledgment he could make for his *ungenerous Usage* of him, and his Ingratitude to his Family, to whom he owed the Empire. Being released, he went home, and fortified *Gotha*, by the Emperor's Permission. He lived to see *Maurice*, the *Ingrate* and the *Treacherous*, in his Grave; and his own Son, soon after, married his Widow.

* See these things enlarged, and connected with the History of *the Reformation*, in the *Supplement to the History of POPERY*, now printing.

He demanded the Restitution of his Dignity and Dominions, but not prevailing, settled his Affairs as well as he could, before his Death, *Ann. 1554.*

His pious, most loving and beloved Wife, *who was an Help-meet for him*, died this Year, *February 24.* having had her most ardent Wish fulfilled before her Decease. She had often said, *she should die with the utmost Satisfaction, if she might but live to see her Husband safe and at Liberty*; which she frequently begg'd of God with Sighs and Tears: And, blessed be his Name, she obtained her Desire. And it was observed, that when he gave order where she should be buried, he commanded them to *leave a Place for himself by her Side*, (he being then sick) *for it would not be long e'er he should follow her.* Accordingly, *March 3d*, having heard a Sermon, (a Duty and Exercise, in which he always delighted) as he lay in Bed, earnestly implored the Divine Mercy, and commended his Spirit into the Hands of God, he departed out of this miserable Life, to enter into his heavenly Country; and *died as he lived, in the Lord.* Thus by the Goodness of God, he died in Peace, amongst his Children and Friends, being restored to his Liberty and Family, and some Part of his Territories; and which was

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more to him than all, *The free and publick Exercise of his Religion.* He was buried by his Lady ; and of them we may say, *They were lovely and pleasant in their Lives, and in their Death they were not divided.*

We are not at all proper Persons to write the Character of such an *illustrious* Prince. They ought to have Souls capable of all the noble and generous Sentiments with which he was furnished, and to have some tolerable Notion, at least, of his glorious Qualities, who would undertake this Task. He was an Example to all Princes, for Constancy and Fortitude; Sincerity and true Magnanimity. He was a Father to his People, a steddy Professor and Protector of the Protestant Religion, and a serious, pious, zealous Christian and Confessor. We shall therefore content ourselves with *Thuanus* his Character of him: “ This truly Great Man, who, by the
“ Confession of his very Enemies, was no
“ way inferiour to the greatest Princes,
“ in Affability, Liberality, Prudence,
“ and invincible Courage, is universally
“ allowed to surpass most of them in the
“ point of bearing Adversity, having triumphed, as it were, over his unhappy
“ Fate, with a Constancy and Fortitude,
“ that are almost incredible.”

These,

These, Sir, are the *Memoirs* you desired, of these *illustrious* Princes : These the Heroes, from whom her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, is descended ! To talk now about a Fortune, or to speak lightly of her Family, can proceed from nothing, but pure *English* Pride founded on gross Ignorance ; or the mischievous Designs of the *Jesuits*, who are gnashing their Teeth with Madness, at the late happy Nuptials. There is not a Prince of any account in all *Europe*, who has not the Blood of the House of *Saxony* in his Veins ; nor is it, upon any account, beneath any Crown'd Head upon the Face of the Earth, to have matched with the Princess *AUGUSTA*. Nor can the greatest Princesses or Queens in *Europe*, at this day, pretend to any thing beyond her. The Empress of *Germany* is many ways related to her, and no way her Better. And no body will pretend that the petty House of *Parma*, or even of King *Stanislaus*, (who, tho' of an ancient and honourable Family, was, not many Years ago, but a private Gentleman,) from whom the Queens of *Spain* and *France* are descended, have any thing to boast of, like what even the present House of *Saxe-Gotha* has. And as for Fortunes, good now, what Fortunes had the Empress, or either of those great

Queens? What Good did any Fortune, that ever came to *England*, do? We have had none since the Days of *Henry V.* except that with *Catharine of Spain*, which the Nation would have been far more happy without; that with *Charles I's* Consort, who proved her Husband's Ruin, and a Curse to *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*; and that with *Catharine of Portugal*, King *Charles II's* Queen, which turned to but a poor Account. It had been ten thousand times better for those two Kings, as well as the Nation, had they married two Gentlemen's Daughters at home. But as I said, the *Jesuits* are in a Fury, to perceive that a Branch of the FIRST *Protestant Prince's* Family in the World, should be matched with our present *Protestant Royal Family*. They know that her Ancestors, have been ever since staunch Protestants; that they have been, many of them, sincerely religious; that the Princess of *Wales*, is a Daughter of many Prayers; has had the most religious Education, and, besides all her other amiable Qualities, has a real Sense of serious Things. Nor is it strange, that the present Appearances should seem ominous to them.

When we consider how Providence has disposed of those Families, that promoted or obstructed *the Reformation*, we must ob-

observe something very remarkable. *Charles V.* the then Emperor, his Male Issue, is long since extinct, and all his Dominions in the Possession of the House of *Bourbon*. *Francis of Valois*, the then King of *France*, his Family was soon cut off, and the Kingdom in the House of *Bourbon*; a House of no very great Account in those Days. *Ferdinand*, who succeeded his Brother *Charles*, in the Empire, his Male Issue is also like to fail; and the Empire, and all his hereditary Dominions, ready to fall to the House of *Lorrain*. Whereas on the other hand, Thanks be to God, we see the Descendant of *Ernest of Lunenburg*, now King of *Great-Britain*; the Head of the House of *Brandenburg*, now King of *Prussia*; the Head of the Family of *Hesse-Cassel*, now King of *Sweden*; a Daughter sprung from the most illustrious Confessor *John Frederick*, Elector of *Saxony*, now Princess of *Wales*; and a Branch of the serene Family of *ORANGE*, which has for several Generations, been so zealous for, and successful in, the Defence of the *Reformation*, matched with the Princess Royal of *Great-Britain*. These Things give us a comfortable Prospect, and great Hopes, that God will be gracious to the *Reformed Churches*: And what Trials soever they

may suffer, to purify and purge them, it is very encouraging to think, that the Successors of the *first Protestant Princes*, are now so powerful. Who knows, but God may honour them, or theirs, and make them the Instruments of *destroying Popery*, as their renowned Ancestors gave it the *first Wound*, which we are sure will prove *mortal* at last. The Lord of his infinite Mercy hasten the happy time.

What ought to be more delightful to *British* Protestants, is this, That the Descendants of the great and religious *Confessor*, JOHN FREDERICK, and the pious, and afflicted Lady ELIZABETH, Daughter of King *James I.* Queen of *Bohemia*, a *Confessor* and great *Sufferer* also for the Protestant Religion, should now be Prince and Princess of *Wales*!

You know well enough, that when that religious Queen was suffering for her Religion, and was not so much minded by her Father and Brother, as all honest *Englishmen* wish'd, a sort of *Prophecy* was given out, that some of her Descendants should be Kings of *Britain*. Shall we not remember the Promise, *Shewing Mercy unto Thousands of them that love me and keep my Commandments*? Or can we reflect on these, and not be thankful to that God who has brought Things to this pass? Nor are we
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to forget that her Royal Highness is the *first unmarried Protestant Princess*, that ever came to *England* ; unless we except *Anne of Cleve*, *Henry VIII's fourth Queen*, who, by the way, was Sister to *John Frederick's Lady*. Suffer us to add, That if every King and Prince in *Europe*, had had a Daughter, a proper Match for the Prince, yet we conceive the Princess *AUGUSTA* ought to have been preferr'd to them all : And that all honest *British* Protestants, when they have considered these Memoirs, will be of this Opinion. All the staunch Protestants beyond Sea, are blessing God with all their Hearts, at the happy Prospect we have ; and that a Princess, from such a truly Christian Family, should be sent among us : Oh let us not be backward to testify our Gratitude also !

Had you, Sir, desir'd any Memoirs of this illustrious and *suffering House*, since the Death of *our ever-renowned Confessor*, we might have enlarged this Letter to a Volume. Though they have never recovered the *Electorate*, nor the greatest Part of their *ancient Inheritance* ; yet have they been, and still are, a Family of great Account in the Empire. Many Branches of this House have been famous in their Generation, and richly furnished with the glorious Qualities of their Ancestors. The
second

second Son of our illustrious Confessor, JOHN WILLIAM, Duke of *Weimar*, born *March 11, 1530.* succeeded his Brother in *Gotha*, and died *March 2, 1573. Æt. 43.* He had two Sons, *Frederick William*, Duke of *Altenburg*, and JOHN Duke of *Saxe-Weimar*. This JOHN had eleven Sons, three of whom, *William, Albert*, and ERNEST were Dukes of *Weimar, Eysenach* and *Gotha*. This ERNEST, surnamed the *Pious*, the first of the *Ernestine* Line, and of the present Branch of the House of *Saxe-Gotha*, was a very extraordinary Prince. [Their Titles are, Dukes of *Saxony, Juliers, Cleves, Engers*, and *Westphalia*; Landgraves of *Thuringia*; Margraves of *Misnia*, &c.] He was born *December 25, 1601.* and agreed to divide the Estate with his Brother *William*, whereby *Gotha* fell to his Share, 1641. In 1660. he obtained a great part of the Country of *Hennelberg*, and upon the Death of *Frederick William*, inherited *Altenburg* and *Coburg*, An. 1672. And after a very pious and useful Life, in which he was a Reproach to most Princes, but the Glory of *Germany*, and a Blessing to his Family and Subjects; he died in a good old Age, full of Years, Riches, and Honour, An. 1675. Æt. 74. But because this Prince was so illustrious a Person, we must

must enlarge a little upon a Character so very uncommon and singular.

ERNEST the *Pious*, Great Grandfather to the Princess of *Wales*, excelled, says *Schouartus*, all the Princes that ever lived, in Religion, Probity, Prudence, Policy, Industry, and Oeconomy: So that the Promise, *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his Righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you*, was visibly and richly fulfilled in him. He was at the Battel of *Lutzen*, with that glorious Hero *Gustavus Adolphus* King of *Sweden*, An. 1641. as was also his eleventh Brother, *Bernard*, one of the Greatest Generals of that, or any Age, and to whose Valour and Conduct alone, after the Death of the brave *Gustavus*, who fell in that Battel, the Victory was chiefly attributed. But of this most religious Prince, we shall add some farther Account, which we have received from a Gentleman, born within three Leagues of *Saxe-Gotha*, under his Hand; and shall give it in his own Words, which you will excuse.

“ He became more famous for his Piety after his Death, than he was in his Life-time; though then he attracted the Eyes of all Sovereign Princes, because he lived in another Manner than they. Many of them lost their Health
“ and

“ and Estates, by ill Husbandry : But he,
 “ on the contrary, was a *shining* Example
 “ to all the Princes in *Europe* ; and his
 “ *fatherly* Care of the *temporal* and *eter-*
 “ *nal* Welfare of his Subjects, has had no
 “ *Parallel*. Amongst others of his Cares
 “ he took, was *that* of *visiting* Ministers
 “ in their Country Parishes, enquiring as
 “ well *how careful they were of their Flocks*,
 “ as in what Manner they managed their
 “ temporal Affairs. In this manner he
 “ took his Rounds every Year, making
 “ his Visitations ; and admonishing every
 “ one to let the *Care of Souls* be their
 “ chiefest Design, and they would not
 “ fail of Success in their temporal Con-
 “ cerns. In taking his Rounds, he came
 “ to a certain Country Parson’s House,
 “ who was from home looking after his
 “ Acres and Fields. He bid his Wife
 “ send for him, and he would stay and
 “ visit his Study in the mean time : A-
 “ mongst the rest of his Books, he found
 “ *his Bible* pretty dusty ; which being
 “ but an *odd Omen* for a Minister, who
 “ ought to *search the Scriptures*, he opened
 “ it, and put a *Ducat* or *half a Guinea*
 “ into the first Chapter of the *Revela-*
 “ *tion*. When the Parson came home,
 “ he made his excuse as well as he could ;
 “ but being asked whether he frequently
 “ read.

“ read in the Bible, the answer was, Yes.
 “ Then the Duke recommended to him
 “ *the reading of the Bible*, in a particular
 “ manner, it being the *great Treasure*,
 “ God had been pleased to manifest his
 “ Love to us poor Wretches in, and by
 “ *observing which we were to be saved*.
 “ The Minister promised to mind that
 “ Exhortation in a particular manner.
 “ Well, the Duke takes his leave at this
 “ time, but returning that very day
 “ twelvemonth, and finding the Parson
 “ from home as before, he searched his
 “ Study and finds his *Ducat*, in the same
 “ Chapter of the *Revelation*, where he
 “ had put it. When the Parson came
 “ home, and was asked by his Sovereign,
 “ whether he had minded *reading in his*
 “ *Bible*? he affirmed it: But the Prince
 “ told him, he could not believe it, be-
 “ cause, said he, if you had often look’d
 “ in your Bible, you would have found
 “ the *Ducat*, which I put in the *Revela-*
 “ *tion* a Twelvemonth ago. Thus re-
 “ primanding him *severely*, he put his
 “ *Ducat* into his Pocket, and left him
 “ ashamed of his Neglect of Duty.”

The same Gentleman tells us, “ that
 George I. Elector of Saxony, noted for
 Drinking, came once to see this most *pious*
 Prince, with a design to have a *Drinking-*
 Bout

Bout at Saxe-Gotha, and, if possible, to *en-
snare him.* The Duke entertained him
handsomely, but without Profusion; and
when the Elector was going away, he was
heard to say, That he could not get the
Duke to drink, and that he had spent his
time very dully. This being told to the
Prince, he, like himself, answered, *Vice
must always give way to Virtue."*

This glorious Prince had eighteen Chil-
dren by his Lady, (who was also a good
and religious Princess,) and was perfectly
adored by all his Subjects, whom he
loved with a paternal Affection; and lived
and died beloved and admir'd by all
that knew him. His Court was nume-
rous and magnificent, attended by the
Wife and Good: His Subjects were easy
and happy, the least burdened with Taxes,
of any State in *Germany*: His Finances
managed with the greatest Wisdom; and
in short, every thing about his Court was
regular and orderly; Elegant, without
Profusion; Princely, without Vanity. His
Care was not only extended to the Clergy,
but to all Ranks, great and small, whom
he visited, and admonished or applauded,
corrected or assisted and rewarded, as he
saw Cause. He would go about from
House to House, and enquire how People
lived; whether they were industrious, or
in-

indolent; and would liberally comfort and supply the afflicted, and put those who know not what to do, in a way of Living. Thus he was the common Father of all his People, who were but, in a manner, all one Family! all safe, all pleased, all affected with the Goodness of their Prince! of which our Friend the *German* gave us this uncommon Proof. The Duke's Palace was old, and not so magnificent, as those of his Neighbours: His People therefore came to him in a Body, and earnestly offer'd to build him a new one. CHILDREN, said this great and good Prince, for so he used to speak to them, *I am loth to burden you; and seeing I am contented, why should not you?* and would not then grant their Request. Not long after, they came to him again, and humbly entreated him, to accept of *that only Testimony* of their Gratitude, for his unparallel'd Care of them, and Kindness to them! and were so importunate, as to prevail; yea, so unanimous were they, that *every one would contribute!* Happy Prince! Happy Subjects! They built him a very fine Palace, and one of the largest in *Germany*; and that, at a time when the Empire was so impoverish'd with intestine Commotions, that few of its Princes could erect Palaces. His Name

is yet facred, and no wonder; and his Memory blessed among them. Oh! when shall we see such Princes! a few such would make all *Europe* happy!

His Son and Successor, was FREDERICK I. a staunch Protestant; who followed the excellent Orders of his glorious Father, in the Management of his Revenues, and Household. By his first Wife MAGDALEN SIBYLLA, Daughter of the Duke of *Saxe-Hall*, he had a numerous Issue. His second Wife, was CHRISTINA, Daughter of FREDERICK VI. Margrave of *Baden-Dourlach*, and Widow of ALBERT, Margrave of *Brandenburgh-Anspach*; Grandfather of CAROLINE, the present Queen of *Great Britain*; by whom he had no Issue. He died *August 2. 1691.* *Æt.* 45.

FREDERICK II. Knight of the Orders of the *Elephant*, and the *Black Eagle*, was born, *July 28. 1678.* He married MAGDALEN AUGUSTA, of the House of *Anhalt-Zerbst*, *June 7. 1696.* He also was a steady Protestant, and walk'd in the Steps of his most renowned Grandfather. His People ador'd him; and indeed he treated them as a Father rather than a Sovereign. The Peasants, his Subjects, are said to be the richest in all *Germany*; so that

that they may almost vie with those of *Holland*; and like the *Dutch* too, they, not caring to spoil the Breed, scorn to match their Daughters to any but the Sons of Wealthy Farmers. His Revenues were computed at a *Million* of Crowns, or two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds Sterling *per Annum*. His Court was, of all the Courts of *Saxony*, next to *Dresden*, the most numerous and magnificent. He had by his pious Lady, who is yet alive, seventeen Children; of whom, Her Royal Highness *AUGUSTA* Princess of *Wales*, who was born *November 29. 1719.* is the sixteenth. They educated their Children very religiously, and were themselves Examples of Probity and Virtue, to all their Court. He died beloved, and lamented by all, *March 12. 1732.*

His Son, *FREDERICK III.* Knight of the Order of the *Black Eagle*, eldest Brother of the Princess of *Wales*, has been in *France, Italy, England, Holland, Denmark, Sweden,* and at all the Courts of *Germany*; and thereby furnish'd himself with the Knowledge of Men and Things; and acquired such a Character, that it was foreseen, and is now known, That the Subjects of *Saxe-*

Gotha are as happy under his Government, as they were under his Father's.

These, Sir, are some short Hints of the *Genealogy* of the Princess of *Wales*, from JOHN FREDERICK the *Magnanimous*, Elector of *Saxony*. The Family never indeed recovered the antient Splendour of that glorious Heroe, and his Father; yet have they steddily followed his Example, in their Zeal for the *Protestant Religion*, and the *Liberties* of their Country. They are also like to succeed very soon, to the Dominions both of *Weimar* and *Eysenach*; so that we hope God will yet raise up that illustrious House, and that there are Blessings in store, reserved for the Successors of those Heroes. The World will perhaps wonder, that we talk so much of the *Virtue* and *Religion* of this House, at this time of day; when every thing that is called *Religion*, or any *Profession* of it, is so much out of fashion. But seeing their Concern for the *Reformation*, was the thing that you wanted most to know, and that *all true Protestants* have a regard for; we hope this Account will be acceptable, and contribute to the universal Joy of all honest *Englishmen*, for the late happy Marriage. Religion and Zeal have been

been the principal, the distinguishing things in the Character of Her Highness's Progenitors, as they have been of all *good and truly great Men*; and we hope, they will be of Her's. And it is a most agreeable and promising Symptom of great Good to this Nation, at such a time as this, that God has sent us a Princess, of so virtuous a Family. We cannot wish her, nor her Country a greater Happiness, than that she may prove such an *Example and Encourager of Religion, and Morality*, as her illustrious Ancestors have been. The Nation lately saw, in our excellent Queen *Mary*, what the *Influence and Example* of a religious Princess could do, with the Blessing of God, to reform a People sunk into the greatest Degeneracy! Oh! that we may see such times again. Our earnest Prayers shall be, That God would pour out his Spirit upon our Sovereign King *GEORGE*, the Queen, the Prince and Princess of *Wales*; and cause them to walk in his Ways, and keep his Statutes and Judgments, and do them; that he would make them nursing Fathers and Mothers to his Church and People; that he would establish the Throne in Righteousness, and diffuse a Spirit of Loyalty, Peace, and Love, among all Ranks; that we may live quiet and
peace-

*dearable Lives under them in all Godli-
 ness and Honesty; and that in his own
 good time, he would make Her Royal
 Highness AUGUSTA, as hearty a Defender
 of, and as great a Blessing to, all that wish
 well to the Reformed Interest in Great Bri-
 tain and Ireland; as ever FREDERICK
 the Wise, JOHN the Good and the Constant,
 and JOHN FREDERICK the Magnanimous,
 were to the Churches of Christ in Germany.
 Amen. We are,*

Sir,

Your &c.



